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# Meeting on Loop 303 Thursday

**Brent Whiting**  
The Arizona Republic  
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State transportation officials will gather Thursday in the Southwest Valley to discuss plans for Loop 303 south of Interstate 10.

The informal two-hour gathering is set for 6 p.m. at Liberty Elementary School in Buckeye, officials said.

The loop, a major West Valley roadway, now extends from I-10 in Goodyear north to Lake Pleasant and Happy Valley roads in Peoria.

The Arizona Department of Transportation has initiated an engineering and environmental study to identify possible routes south of I-10.

Planners want to extend Loop 303 south of I-10 for at least five miles, said Victor Mendez, the agency's director.

A major consideration will be a possible connection with Arizona 801, the name that has been given to a proposed second freeway in the Southwest Valley to relieve congestion on I-10.

Officials want a connection between Loop 303 and Arizona 801 south of I-10.

The I-10 reliever is a separate project from ongoing efforts by Southwest Valley leaders to get I-10 widened.

At issue in the reliever plans are proposed freeway improvements under Proposition 400, the 2006-26 Regional Transportation Plan that was approved by Valley voters in November 2004.

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